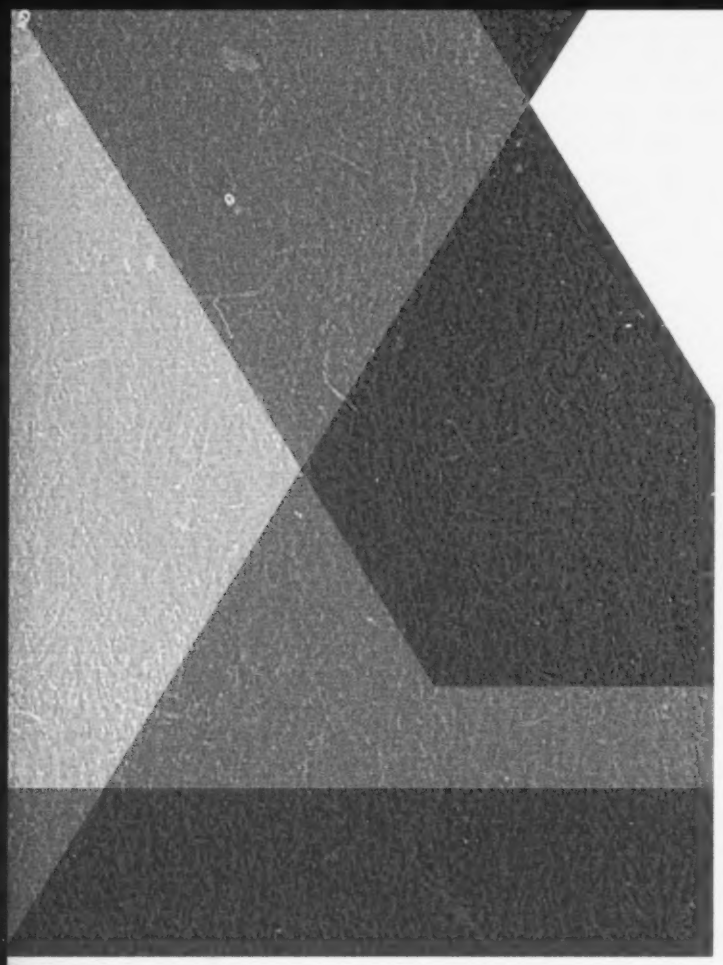

Business Plan

2018–19

Department of Environment

NOVA SCOTIA

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Budget 2018–19: Business Plan
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Message from the Minister

As Minister of Nova Scotia Environment, it is my pleasure to present our 2018-19 Business Plan, which will further advance our work to protect the environment, human health and the welfare of farm animals.

We have already begun work to hire a dedicated prosecutor who will specialize in cases that relate to our mandate. This includes the environment, food safety, public health, meat inspection, fisheries and aquaculture, animal welfare, natural resources and the fur industry. We will also work to make information accessible online about the cases we take to court.

The province's *Safe Body Art Act*, which will regulate how body art services such as tattoos and piercings, was proclaimed in early March. The new regulations that were approved with the Act will be effective Feb. 1, 2019. This year, we will work with the industry to ensure they are ready to comply with the new legislation, and ensure the public understands the health and safety benefits.

We will also continue work to update our technology systems to ensure our programs are consistently and efficiently delivered.

The *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* was passed more than 10 years ago, and this year, we will have another look at our goals and our path forward with relation to this important legislation.

We continue to work toward our goal of protecting 13 per cent of lands across the province. This year, we will identify new and expanded areas for protection across the province.

Finally, this year, we will consult Nova Scotians about new legislation which will provide legal protection for our coasts – which are significantly impacted by climate change. We will also continue to implement our new Cap and Trade program, which will require companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the pocketbooks of Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Honourable Iain Rankin
Minister of Nova Scotia Environment

Vision of Nova Scotia Environment

A leader in regulatory excellence, conservation, partnership and promotion, we protect the environment, human health and the welfare of farm animals.

Mandate (from the September 2017 Mandate Letter)

- Continue to support a business environment which is conducive to innovation and economic development, striking the right balance, ensuring that effective regulation protects the interests of Nova Scotians while enhancing our provincial prosperity.
- Commence the work needed to begin consultations with Nova Scotians to inform the development of a coastal protection act which will provide legal protection for our coasts.
- Collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources to support their work on the Biodiversity Act and the creation of a Biodiversity Council.
- Pass legislation to implement a Cap and Trade system, using a made-in-Nova Scotia approach to cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the province, in fulfillment of our landmark agreement-in-principle on climate change with the federal government.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources to move towards 13 percent protected land across the province while ensuring a balance so there are no negative recreational or economic effects.

Core functions of Nova Scotia Environment

The following core functions of Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) support the mandate:

- Develop programs and deliver services to enhance the protection of the environment, human health, and the welfare of farm animals.
- Develop legislation, regulations and policies based on sound scientific knowledge and expertise.
- Educate, inspect and enforce to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations.
- Proactively respond to environmental, animal, and human health risks.
- Process notifications, applications, and approvals for regulated activities.

Goals to achieve the mandate and core functions of NSE

Goal 1: Education, Compliance, Inspection, and Enforcement

Continue working towards a best-in-class inspectorate that is defined by:

- An informed, professional and competent workforce that is able to recognize and apply the right level of response to an action.
- Consistent and effective compliance with legislation and regulations.
- An integrated and responsive structure that creates flexibility needed to ensure resources are deployed based upon risk.

Priorities/Activities for 2018-19

- Work with the Public Prosecution Service to recruit a dedicated NSE prosecutor who will specialize in cases involving legislation under our mandate.

Planned approach to measure progress, impact and success

- A dedicated prosecutor is assigned to NSE.
- Information about concluded prosecutions will be posted on-line.

Goal 2: Program and Risk Management

Programs that manage risks to an acceptable level and deliver desired benefits through:

- Resources and efforts that are continuously aligned with program needs on a risk basis.
- Ensuring programs are well-structured and meet intended outcomes, while focusing on continuous improvement.

Priorities/Activities for 2018-19

- Continue to support a business environment which is conducive to innovation and economic development, striking the right balance, ensuring that effective regulation protects the interests of Nova Scotians while enhancing our provincial prosperity.

Planned approach to measure progress, impact and success

- Develop a risk-based audit schedule to focus inspection resources on those regulated entities that pose the greatest risks to environment, human health and farm animal welfare.

Goal 3: Client-Focused Service Delivery

Improve the quality of service delivery to department clients through:

- Regulations that are clear and easy to understand.
- Supporting and empowering staff with information and training to best position them for success in their roles and interactions with Nova Scotians.

Priorities/Activities for 2018-19

- Continue to build and enhance NSE's use of the System Notification and Approval Processing (SNAP).
- Implementation of a Safe Body Art Program, to protect the health of Nova Scotians.

Planned approach to measure progress, impact and success

- Continued work to move regulatory programs into SNAP.
- An increased number of regulatory programs in SNAP.
- Safe Body Art Standards and guidance is available online, and accessible to the public.

Goal 4: Regulatory Excellence

Ensure necessary regulations are predictable, transparent, and protect our health, safety and environment by:

- Modernizing regulations and reducing regulatory burden where appropriate to eliminate barriers to private sector growth and productivity.
- Modernizing legislation, creating the foundation to support innovation, sustainable prosperity and regulatory excellence.
- Measuring results to ensure outcomes are met.

Priorities/Activities for 2018-19

- Commence the work required for a coastal protection act to provide legal protection for our coasts
- Work with our federal partner, Environment and Climate Change Canada, to develop and implement a made in Nova Scotia Cap and Trade system to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions.
- Incorporate recommendations from the Roundtable on the Environment and Sustainable Prosperity into our approach to support sustainable prosperity in Nova Scotia.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources to move towards 13 percent protected land across the province while ensuring a balance so there are no negative recreational or economic effects.
- Work with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness to support reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden to Nova Scotia business.

Planned approach to measure progress, impact and success

- Nova Scotians are consulted on legal protection for our coasts.
- Cap and Trade Program is launched, including an electronic compliance administrative system to monitor emission allowances, reserve sales and calculation of results.
- Government's approach and framework to support sustainable prosperity is renewed.
- An increase in percentage of province legally protected in a manner consistent with the EGSPA definition.
- A reduction of unnecessary NSE regulatory burden to Nova Scotian businesses is achieved.

Financial Summary

Nova Scotia Environment Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2017-2018 Estimate	2017-2018 Forecast	2018-2019 Estimate
Administration	855	866	870
Policy	5,275	5,025	5,341
Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement	20,900	21,352	21,185
Sustainability and Applied Science	10,209	9,229	10,120
Total - Departmental Expenses	**37,239**	**36,472**	**37,516**
Ordinary Recoveries	100	142	100
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	**355.3**	**325.8**	**355.3**

Notes:

For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1